



Quality is Our Bottom Line

Insurance Committee Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Connecticut Association of Health Plans

Testimony in Opposition to

HB 5142 AA Requiring The Inclusion of Primary Care Providers on Health Insurance Identification Cards

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully opposes passage of HB 5142 which would require that health plans list the name of an insured's primary care physician (PCP) on their insurance identification card. While we respect the intent of the legislation, the benefits do not outweigh the costs. An average ID card package costs approximately \$1.50 to produce. If you have 150,000 subscribers for instance, the cost for an initial mailing to accommodate the change is \$225,000. The administrative burden of reissuing cards each time a member changes their PCP would be fairly significant and we would strongly advise that it's an added cost that should be avoided.

There are also practical concerns with respect to this proposal. Space on the cards is limited and it would be difficult to list each PCP for a family of four on one card for instance and then again reissue them to only one, or perhaps all, family members at various times during a year.

A mandate of this nature runs contrary to the movement endorsing electronic medical records where most segments of the health care delivery system are now headed in an effort to not only simplify the overall system and maximize efficiencies, but most importantly to assure that quality care is being delivered. Some health plans are even utilizing integrated cards that serve as ID cards and utilize swipe technology that can be used to tap into HSA accounts for example. Passage of HB 5142 would stifle these types of innovations and we'd respectfully request that you take no further action on the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.